

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed July 6, 2004. By this Amendment, claims 31-17 and 49 are cancelled; and claims 38, 44, 48 and 50-55 are amended. Claims 38-48 and 50-61 are pending in this application. It is noted that Applicant has amended and cancelled the above-identified claims solely to advance prosecution of the instant application and to obtain allowance on allowable claims at the earliest possible date. Accordingly, no admission may be inferred from the amendments of claims herein. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the originally filed claims in the future.

In the office action, claims 50-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the examiner noted that claim 50 recited a second ring, and did not recite a first ring. With this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 38 to recite a first ring. Also with this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 50 so that it depends from claim 38.

With respect to claims 52 and 53, the examiner noted that there is no antecedent basis for "the ring". With this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 52 so that "the first ring" recited in claim 52 derives its antecedent basis from "a first ring" recited in claim 38. Also with this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 53 so that an antecedent basis for "the first ring" is found in claim 38. Applicant has amended claim 54 to make it consistent with claim 52 from which it depends.

Claim 38 was objected to as being dependent upon rejected claim 31. The examiner indicated, however, that claim 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With this

amendment, Applicant has rewritten claim 38 in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 38 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 39-48 and 50-61 depend from claim 38 and recite additional limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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